

CLAIMS

1. The use of an agent in the manufacture of a medicament to affect an allergic condition and/or a hypersensitivity condition;

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wherein the agent is capable of modulating a ganglioside associated activity;

wherein the agent is not coupled to an antigen; and

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wherein the modulation of the ganglioside associated activity affects an allergic condition and/or a hypersensitivity condition.

2. The use of an agent in the manufacture of a medicament to affect an allergic condition and/or a hypersensitivity condition;

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wherein the agent is capable of modulating a GM1 associated activity;

wherein the agent is not coupled to an antigen; and

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wherein the modulation of the GM1 associated activity affects an allergic condition and/or a hypersensitivity condition.

3. The use of an agent according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the agent is capable of blocking an IgE mediated response.

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4. An assay method for identifying an agent according to any one of claims 1 to 3 that is capable of affecting an allergic condition and/or a hypersensitivity condition;

wherein the assay method comprises:

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- (a) contacting an agent with a ganglioside receptor;
- (b) determining whether the agent modulates a ganglioside associated activity;

5 such that the modulation of the ganglioside associated activity is indicative that the agent may be capable of affecting an allergic condition and/or a hypersensitivity condition; and

wherein the agent is not coupled to an antigen.

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5. An assay method according to claim 4 wherein the assay is to screen for an agent useful in the prevention and/or treatment of an allergic condition and/or a hypersensitivity condition.

15 6. A process comprising the steps of:

- (a) performing the assay according to claim 4 or claim 5;
- (b) identifying one or more agents capable of modulating a ganglioside associated
- 20 activity; and
- (c) preparing a quantity of those one or more agents.

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7. A process comprising the steps of:

- (a) performing the assay according to claim 4 or claim 5;
- (b) identifying one or more agents capable of modulating a ganglioside associated
- 30 activity; and

(c) preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising those one or more identified agents.

8. A process comprising the steps of:

5 (a) performing the assay according to claim 4 or claim 5;

(b) identifying one or more agents capable of modulating a ganglioside associated activity; and

10 (c) modifying one or more identified agents that modulates a ganglioside associated activity; and

(d) preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising those one or more modified agents.

15 9. An agent identified by the process of claim 6 or claim 7 or claim 8.

10. An agent according to claim 9 wherein the agent is a GM1 binding agent.

20 11. An agent according to claim 10 wherein the agent is EtxB.

12. An agent according to claim 9 wherein the agent had not previously been known to affect an allergic condition and/or a hypersensitivity condition through modulation of a ganglioside associated activity.

25 13. A ganglioside according to claims 4 to 8 wherein the ganglioside is a GM1 ganglioside.

14. A method of affecting an allergic condition or a hypersensitivity condition with one or more agents;

wherein the agent is capable of modulating a ganglioside associated activity in
5 an *in vitro* assay method; and

wherein the *in vitro* assay method is the assay method defined in claim 4 or claim
5.

10 15. Use of an agent according to any one of claims 4 to 14 in the manufacture of a medicament to affect an allergic condition and/or a hypersensitivity condition.

16. An agent according to claim 9 or claim 10 or claim 11 or claim 12 prepared by a process according to claim 6 or claim 7 or claim 8 for use as a pharmaceutical.

15 17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising or prepared from an agent according to any one of claims 9 or claim 10 or claim 11 or claim 12 or an agent prepared by a process according to claim 6 or claim 7 or claim 8.

20 18. Use of an agent in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7 or claim 8 or claim 16 or claim 17 for the treatment of an allergic condition and/or a hypersensitivity condition.

19. An agent capable of modulating a ganglioside associated activity substantially
25 as described herein.

add A1
x
B4
add C1
add D4